

September 19, 2002

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

LOCAL BLM, FOREST SERVICE MANAGERS LIFT FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Effective immediately, local U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service managers have removed the regulated fire restrictions in the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ), reflecting the recent rainfall and cooling temperatures, reports Ray Hermit, BIFZ Fire Management Officer. The BIFZ includes Forest Service land in the Emigrant Creek Ranger District and land administered by the BLM Burns District, primarily in Harney County. Hermit says, "The removal of public use restrictions and regulated fire closures means visitors to public land in the BIFZ may use campfires outside established campgrounds." He asks people to continue to be careful that they clear adequate area of flammable materials and to extinguish campfires completely before leaving the site.

Tom Dyer, BLM Burns District Manager says, "Our hats are off to local citizens and visitors to public land during a year in which Harney County has had record wildfire potential, yet lower than average wildfire incidents, especially human-caused fires."

Firewood cutters are reminded they can obtain permits in Burns at ACW Rental and Stock Supply and Burns Outdoor Power Equipment stores, or they can pick them up at the Forest Service or BLM Offices in Hines during normal business hours.

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Hunters are reminded there will be a hunter information station at the Sentry Supermarket in Hines on Thursday and Friday, September 26 and 27 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day. Personnel at the station will be selling maps and will have current information on travel restrictions, hunting regulations, prescribed burn projects, and Sentry Supermarket will offer free coffee to hunters and plans to provide for a hunter's breakfast both mornings.

For more information on fire management in the BIFZ call (541) 573-4555 for recorded information or (541) 573-4545 to ask questions.

*****TO REPORT FIRES IN THE BIFZ, CALL (541) 573-1000*****

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